

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-28, 30-32, and 34-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (Applicant Admitted prior art, figs 2-4) in view of Donner (USPN 7,031,945)

With regards to claim 1, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses an appliance for monitoring equipment comprising:

first means for receiving data from said equipment; (38;fig 2)

second means for receiving a set of configuration data (42;figure 3), wherein said second means includes a communication module; (40;figure 2)(figure 4) and

third means for processing said equipment data in accordance with a optional service, (32,36;fig 2) wherein said configuration data is adapted to enable or disable said optional services,(60-62; figure 4) wherein said appliance is adapted to restart upon receiving a restart signal form said communication module. (66;figure 4)

With regards to claim 2, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses said third means includes:

software for processing said equipment data, (36;fig 2) said software including one or more software components, each software component for performing an optional service; (36;figure 2) fourth means for storing said software; (34;figure 2) and

fifth means for executing said software in accordance with said configuration data, which is adapted to enable or disable said software components. (72;figure 12)

With regards to claim 3, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses fourth means is a memory. (34;figure 2)

With regards to claim 4, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses memory is also adapted to store said configuration data. (34; figure 2)

With regards to claim 5, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a fifth means is a processor. (32;figure 2)

With regards to claim 6, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a first means includes one or more data ports. (38;figure 2)

With regards to claim 7, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses data ports are also adapted to transmit data to said equipment. (64; figure 4 & 38; figure 2)

With regards to claim 9, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses means for transmitting data to a remote system. (52; figure 4) (40;figure 2)

With regards to claim 10, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses means for receiving new or upgraded software components. (figure 4)

With regards to claim 11, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses configuration data is adapted to enable or disable a new or upgraded software component. (figure 4)

With regards to claim 12, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses configuration data is adapted to restart said appliance after receiving and storing said configuration data. (44; figure 3)

With regards to claims 14 and 35, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses configuration data is adapted to receive a said configuration data from said communication module during a restart process. (figure 4)

With regards to claim 15 and 36, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses configuration data is adapted to receive and store new or upgraded software components from said communication module during a restart process. (figure 4)

With regards to claims 16-18, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses the communication module is coupled to an Internet connection either a dialup or wireless. (40;figure 2)

With regards to claim 19, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses the appliance is a stand-alone device separate from said equipment. (30; figure 2)

With regards to claim 20, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses the equipment includes one or more printers. (fig 2)

With regards to claim 21, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses an appliance for monitoring equipment comprising:

- a data port for receiving data from said equipment; (38;figure 2)

- a communication module for receiving one or more software components, each software component for processing said equipment data in accordance with an optional service, and for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components; (40;figure 2)

- a memory for storing said software components; (34;figure 2)and

- a processor for executing said software components in accordance with said configuration data. (32; figure 2)

With regards to claim 22, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses an appliance for monitoring one or more office equipment devices comprising:

- a data port for receiving data from said equipment; (38;figure 2)

- software adapted primarily for monitoring said devices, said software including one or more software components, each software component for processing said equipment data in accordance with an optional service; (36;fig 2)

- a communication module for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components, wherein said software components comprise at least software with instructions for monitoring a different appliance; (40; figure 2)

- a memory for storing said software; (34;figure 2) and

- a processor for executing said software in accordance with said configuration data. (32;figure 2)

With regards to claim 23, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a system for monitoring equipment comprising:

- one or more monitoring appliances adapted to monitor said equipment, each monitoring appliance including (30;figure 2)

- first means for receiving data from said equipment; (38;figure 2)

- second means for receiving a set of configuration data; (32,40;figure 2) and

- third means for processing said equipment data in accordance with a plurality of optional services, wherein said configuration data is adapted to enable or disable said optional services; (32;figure 2) wherein said third means includes:

software for processing said equipment data, (36;figure 2)said software including one or more software components, each software component for performing an optional service, wherein said software component for performing an optional service, wherein said software is adapted to restart said monitoring appliance after receiving and storing said configuration data; (figure 4) and

a memory for storing said software; (34 figure 2) and

a processor for executing said software in accordance with said configuration data, which is adapted to enable or disable said software components; (32;figure 2) and

fourth means for transmitting said configuration data to said monitoring appliances. (62; figure 4)

With regards to claim 24, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a fourth means includes a central server. (20; figure 1A)

With regards to claim 25, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a central server includes a first database of configuration data for the monitoring appliances. (50;figure 4)

With regards to claim 26, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a user can change which services in a monitoring appliance are enabled or disabled by modifying the configuration data for that monitoring appliance stored in said first database. (42;figure 3)

With regards to claim 27, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a central server includes an application for modifying the configuration data stored in said first database. (20;figure 1A)

With regards to claim 28, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses an application is a web application. (figure 4)

With regards to claim 30, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a central server includes a second database of new or upgraded software components. (figure 4)

With regards to claim 31, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses monitoring appliances further include means for receiving new or upgraded software components from said central server (figure 4)

With regards to claim 32, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses configuration data is adapted to enable or disable a new or upgraded software component. (figure 3)

With regards to claim 34, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses software adapted to restart said monitoring appliance upon receiving a restart signal from said central server. (52; figure 4)

With regards to claim 37, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a system for monitoring office equipment comprising:

one or more monitoring appliances adapted to monitor said office equipment, each monitoring appliance including: (30; figure 2)

a data port for receiving data from said equipment; (38; figure 2)

appliance software adapted primarily for monitoring said equipment, said software including one or more software components, each software component for processing said equipment data in accordance with an optional service, wherein said optional service includes functionality for monitoring a different appliance; (figure 2)

a first communication module for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components; (figure 2)

a first memory for storing said appliance software; (figure 2) and

a first processor for executing said software in accordance with said configuration data; (figure 2) and

a central server including: (back office; figure 4)

server software for controlling the communication of data to and from said monitoring appliances; (figure 4)

a first database of configuration data for said monitoring appliances; (figure 4)

a second memory for storing said server software and said first database; (fig 4)

a second processor for executing said server software; (66; figure 12) and

a second communication module for transmitting said configuration data to said monitoring appliances. (back office; figure 2&4)

With regards to claim 38, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses an application for modifying the configuration data stored in said first database. (figure 4)

With regards to claim 39, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses server further includes a second database of new or upgraded software components. (figure 4)

With regards to claim 40, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses first and second communication means are also adapted to download new or upgraded software components from said central server to said monitoring appliances. (figure 4)

With regards to claim 41, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses configuration data is adapted to enable or disable a new or upgraded software component. (figure 4)

With regards to claim 42, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses system for monitoring office equipment comprising:

one or more monitoring appliances adapted to monitor said office equipment, each monitoring appliance including: (figure 2)

a data port for receiving data from said equipment; (figure 2)

a first communication module for receiving one or more software components, each software component for processing said equipment data in accordance with an optional service, and for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components; (40; figure2)

a first memory for storing said software components; (34; figure 2) and

a first processor for executing said software components in accordance with said configuration data; (32; figure 2) and

a central server (back office; figure 2) including:

server software for controlling the communication of data to and from said monitoring appliances; (figure 4)

a first database of configuration data for said monitoring appliances; (figure 3)

a second database of software components for said monitoring appliances; (50; figure 4)

a second memory for storing said server software and said first and second databases; (back office; figure 4)

a second processor for executing said server software; (back office; figure 4) and
a second communication module for transmitting said configuration data and
said software components to said monitoring appliances. (back office; figure 2)

With regards to claim 43, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a method for remotely
configuring a monitoring appliance for monitoring equipment including the steps of:

storing a configurable software components in said monitoring appliance, each
software component for performing a function of said monitoring appliance; (36; figure
2)

storing, in a central server, configuration data that determines which software
components are enabled or disabled; (50, 52 (back office); figure 4)

downloading said configuration data from said central server to said monitoring
appliance; (62; figure 4) and

restarting said monitoring appliance with said software components enabled for
or disabled from execution in accordance with said configuration data. (66; figure 4)

With regards to claim 44, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses a user can change which
software components are enabled or disabled by modifying the configuration data
stored in the central server. (50; figure 4)

With regards to claim 45, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses method further includes the
steps of: storing new or upgraded software components in said central server; (58
figure 4)

downloading said new or upgraded software components from said central
server to said monitoring appliance; (60 figure 4) and

installing said new or upgraded software components in said appliance. (64; figure 4)

With regards to claim 46, (AAPA, fig. 2-4) discloses configuration data is adapted to enable or disable a new or upgraded software component. (42 figure 3)

Applicant admitted prior art, fig. 2-4 discloses the claimed invention except for remotely retasking a plurality of services for use in an appliance. AAPA discloses retasking (figure 3) an appliance locally. It should be noted that if an appliance is retasked as shown in figure 3, then there must be a plurality of tasks (services) to "retask" said appliance with.

Donner (USPN 7,031,945) discloses remotely retasking/reallocating a plurality of services. (Col. 1, lines 22-29)

The prior art references teach all of the claimed elements. The difference between the prior art and the claimed invention is performing the retasking operation remotely.

The combination of the known elements is achieved by a known method of remote communications.

Since all the claimed elements would continue to operate in the same manner, specifically the appliances that needed retasking would still be retasked therefore results would be predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art.

As such, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to support the local retasking taught by AAPA with remote communication means taught by

Donner as being no more than the predictable use of prior-art elements according to their established functions.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-28, 30-32, and 34-46 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Haines et al. (USPN 5,077,660) teaches a remote meter configuration.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aditya S. Bhat whose telephone number is 571-272-2270. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Aditya Bhat/
Examiner, Art Unit 2863
June 6, 2008

/Bryan Buil/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2863